UNITED NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.
GENERAL

CEDAW/C/SR.260
19 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fourteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 260th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 16 January 1995, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. CORTI

CONTENTS

OPENING OF THE SESSION

SOLEMN DECLARATION BY THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference and Support Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRPERSON declared open the fourteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and welcomed the new and re-elected members of the Committee.

2. Mrs. MONGELLA (Assistant Secretary-General, Division for the Advancement of Women, and Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women), said that the elimination of discrimination against women was clearly linked to the advancement and equality of women within society. The Committee's work had contributed to the evaluation of progress in that area and to recommendations for future action. It was clear that there was a need to strengthen the servicing of the Committee in order to allow it to carry out its mandate effectively.

3. She complimented the Committee on its success in developing a favourable atmosphere for ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. She welcomed new and re-elected members and thanked those members who had completed their service to the Committee in 1994. She also welcomed the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, appointed by the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session. As part of her mandate, the Special Rapporteur was expected to work closely with the Committee.

4. The Committee had decided to present a progress report on its work to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Accordingly, the Secretariat had prepared a preliminary draft of that report (CEDAW/C/1995/7), following the instructions given to it by the Committee at its thirteenth session. The draft sought to place the Convention in the context of 50 years of United Nations efforts to promote equality between men and women. It reviewed the history of the Committee, drew conclusions from the Committee's substantive work on the meaning of the Convention, and suggested new directions for the Committee's future work. Those new directions should be the Committee's contribution to the implementation of the Platform for Action of the World Conference. The revised draft Platform to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women in March 1995 set out action in the area of women's human rights that would also shape the Committee's work. It was expected that the draft Platform for Action would be issued on 1 February; while it would not be before the Committee for discussion, some elements of the draft were of relevance to the Committee's input to the Conference.

5. A central concern of the World Conference on Human Rights had been that women's human rights should be fully integrated into United Nations human rights mechanisms. There was a consensus that there were two prerequisites for integrating women's rights successfully. First of all, "mainstream" bodies should recognize the importance of incorporating women's concerns into their work. The other human rights bodies had a responsibility to make that happen, as had in fact been recommended by the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies at their fifth meeting. Secondly, there must be strong institutions

concerned specifically with women, and the Committee must be one such institution. Indeed, the member States which had participated in informal consultations on the Platform for Action in December 1994 had agreed that there was a need to strengthen existing institutions to enable them to implement the Platform for Action. That would also involve developing the relations among the various institutions concerned specifically with women, particularly the relationship between CEDAW and the Commission on the Status of Women.

6. The Committee had a decisive role to play in the overall human rights regime, and many of the issues to be discussed at the current session would have an impact on that role. The Committee's workload would increase substantially as more States became parties to the Convention, especially since the Platform for Action would undoubtedly emphasize universal ratification, without reservations, by the year 2000, yet the Committee's work had been hampered by the time constraints imposed by the Convention itself. Fortunately, steps were under way to remove those constraints. At the Committee's recommendation, the Economic and Social Council had requested that an analysis of the Committee's working methods, by comparison with those of other treaty bodies, be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration at its forty-ninth session. On the basis of that analysis, the Assembly had decided to request the States parties to the Convention to meet in 1995 to consider revising the Convention to remove the restriction on meeting time. Accordingly, a special meeting of the States parties was to take place on 22 May 1995 and the General Assembly was to consider the meeting's recommendations at its fiftieth session.

7. Discussions had been held between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights on developing a joint programme of activities for the integration of women's human rights into the work of the wider human rights regime, and the Commission on the Status of Women was to consider a report by the Division on the outcome of those discussions. In that connection, the new focal point for women of the Centre for Human Rights had visited the Division, and staff of the Division had participated in the meetings of other treaty bodies. A member of the Division had participated in a training seminar on human rights reporting organized for the Centre for Human Rights in November 1994, at which she had provided information not only on the Convention but also on the incorporation of gender concerns into other human rights instruments.

8. Another issue of concern was the large number of reservations to the Convention. The Fourth World Conference on Women would undoubtedly recommend that States parties should consider withdrawing their substantive reservations. A comparative analysis of reservations to the Convention and to other human rights instruments was contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/6. The United Kingdom had recently withdrawn some of its reservations to certain articles of the Convention and she hoped that other Governments would follow its example. She drew attention to the fact that at its forty-sixth session, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had requested the Secretary-General to seek the Committee's views on the desirability of obtaining an advisory opinion on, inter alia, the value and legal effect of reservations to the Convention. Members would recall that at its twelfth session, the Committee had recommended the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention establishing a communications procedure. At its thirteenth session, the

Committee had recommended that the Commission on the Status of Women should organize an expert group meeting on the subject, with the participation of CEDAW members. As yet, no such meeting had taken place, but a meeting had been organized by a non-governmental organization, in which a number of Committee members had participated. The text proposed by that meeting had been circulated to members of the Committee for possible consideration at the current session.

9. The Committee had decided to revise its rules of procedure and the guidelines for the preparation of national reports. The Division for the Advancement of Women had prepared a draft text, which was contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/6. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly had raised a number of issues regarding conference services. General Assembly resolution 49/221 had, inter alia, appealed to the human rights treaty bodies to review their need for summary records. Four other human rights treaty bodies had eliminated summaries of the examination of States parties' reports from their annual reports, while maintaining summary records, in order to reduce the length of their reports. The Committee might consider such an approach in reviewing its own need for documentation.

10. With regard to the Committee's consideration of reports by States parties at the current session, she drew attention to General Assembly resolution 49/162, which requested the Committee to pay particular attention to discrimination on grounds of age when evaluating national reports on the implementation of the Convention. She also referred to resolution 1994/5 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which recommended that the Committee should give particular attention to the implementation of article 6 of the Convention and should include in its reporting guidelines an item on contemporary forms of slavery. The Committee's general recommendations on articles 9, 15 and 16 had made a welcome contribution to the understanding of women's rights with regard to marriage and the family. Articles 7 and 8 should be given similar importance. The Committee's recommendations provided guidance to States parties that would be very helpful in implementing the Platform for Action.

SOLEMN DECLARATION BY THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

11. The new members of the Committee, namely Ms. Bare, Ms. Bernard, Ms. Javate de Dios, Ms. Estrada Castillo, Ms. Hartono, Ms. Sato and Ms. Shalev, made the solemn declaration provided for in rule 10 of the Committee's rules of procedure.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12. The CHAIRPERSON invited nominations for election to the offices of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur for a term of two years, in accordance with article 15, paragraph 2, of the Convention and rules 13 and 14 of the Committee's rules of procedure.

13. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE nominated Ms. Corti for re-election to the office of Chairperson.

14. Ms. Corti was re-elected Chairperson by acclamation.

15. Ms. SINEGIORGIS nominated Ms. Acuij, Ms. ESTRADA CASTILLO nominated Ms. Garcia-Prince and Ms. JAVATE DE DIOS nominated Ms. Lin Shanshen for the three offices of Vice-Chairperson.

16. Ms. Acuij, Ms. Garcia-Prince and Ms. Lin Shanshen were elected Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation.

17. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA DEL REAL nominated Ms. Schopp-Schilling for the office of Rapporteur.

18. Ms. SINEGIORGIS, supported by Ms. TALLAWY, endorsed the nomination of Ms. Schopp-Schilling but suggested that, in future, prior consultations should be held concerning nominations to the Bureau, so as to ensure equitable representation of the various regions.

19. Ms. Schopp-Schilling was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.
GENERAL

CEDAW/C/SR.261
31 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fourteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 261st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 16 January 1995, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. CORTI

CONTENTS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF PERSONS CHAIRING THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING TREATY BODIES

STATEMENT BY THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference and Support Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

95-80055 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRPERSON drew the Committee's attention to the provisional agenda contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/1.

2. The agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF PERSONS CHAIRING THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING TREATY BODIES

3. The CHAIRPERSON drew attention to a list of national and international conferences and meetings which she had attended in her capacity as CEDAW Chairperson, adding that she had noted an overall improvement in the attitude towards CEDAW, as evidenced inter alia by the fact that she had been invited to speak in the plenary sessions of various United Nations bodies.

4. Drawing attention to the report of the fifth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/49/537, annex), she noted that the meeting had called for the full application to women of the human rights enshrined in the international human rights instruments and had recommended that each treaty body should request States parties to include in their reports disaggregated statistical data on the situation of women under the terms of each human rights instrument. It had also recommended that human rights education should be a priority activity of the human rights treaty bodies. The proposals which were to be defined in the context of the Decade for Human Rights Education would be of great importance to CEDAW.

5. The report stressed inter alia the need for closer cooperation between treaty bodies and the specialized agencies and recommended that the latter should consider inviting experts from treaty bodies to participate in their general conferences; it also recommended that CEDAW should consider the possibility of changing its working methods or amending its rules of procedure in order to allow non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate more fully in its activities (para. 41).

6. The report contained for the first time, a separate section devoted to the issue of providing adequate resources for the effective functioning of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (paras. 49 to 51), an acknowledgement of the fact that the problems facing CEDAW, particularly the lack of resources and the lack of adequate secretariat support (para. 50), were more serious than those facing other human rights treaty bodies. The chairpersons felt that CEDAW should no longer be separated from the mainstream of the other human rights activities and that it should be based at the United Nations Office at Geneva (para. 50).

7. The Committee and the Centre for Human Rights had been exchanging information on a regular basis. The "focal point" appointed by the Centre for

Human Rights to serve as its liaison with the Division for the Advancement of Women had assisted her during the meeting of chairpersons. She was of the view that that relationship would be much more effective if it were established on a permanent basis. The Centre was to issue a publication on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and on CEDAW, which had been revised by the Division and on the basis of her own comments. CEDAW had been invited by all treaty bodies to participate in public meetings. The Committee must request information from the Centre on the functioning and financing of working groups of treaty bodies. Information had also been received on a regular basis by CEDAW experts appointed to follow the work of different treaty bodies.

8. She had made every effort to establish closer cooperation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations. A meeting with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had provided the first opportunity for such cooperation; unfortunately, as funding had been extremely limited only five CEDAW experts had been able to participate. A joint document would be issued highlighting the basic principles and ethics of the two bodies, in particular, their belief in education as a fundamental human right of girls and women, and as a tool for the progress of society and for a new culture of equality. A core manifesto on the theme "Towards a gender-inclusive culture through education" had been drafted and would soon be submitted to the Committee for approval. Its purpose was to promote equality at all levels of education for girls and women. UNICEF had also expressed a willingness to undertake concrete cooperation, as had several other agencies but as yet nothing had been done. As for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), it had financed her participation in the International Conference on Population and Development, for which she was very grateful. The Executive Director of UNFPA had been invited to attend a meeting of the Committee.

9. She attached particular importance to the Committee's cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW), which, from the outset, had promoted awareness of the Convention and which provided regular reports to the Committee. She also expressed gratitude to the International Human Rights Law Group, which had mobilized funding for the organization of a seminar in Maastricht. The seminar had been attended by the world's leading experts on the Convention and had produced a draft optional protocol to the Convention, which the Committee should proceed forthwith to consider. Together with the report on progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention, the draft optional protocol would be CEDAW's best contribution to the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, and would give Governments an opportunity to demonstrate whether they had the political will needed to move towards a new policy of equality.

10. Reporting on the recent International Conference on Population and Development, she said that it had revealed, inter alia, that millions of women in developing countries still died from preventable childbirth-related causes. The Conference had challenged the world to put women's human rights on the world agenda and to view reproductive rights and health care as human rights. The Conference had attributed great importance to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee on the Elimination

of Discrimination against Women was expected to follow up the Plan of Action adopted at the Conference.

11. Given the growing numbers of instances of civil strife and economic crises all of which produced increasing numbers of refugees, most of whom were women and children, the Committee should elaborate a General Recommendation regarding women refugees, and examine measures for the protection of their human rights.

12. Noting that the United Nations Decade for Human Rights education had just begun, she pointed out that the High Commissioner for Human Rights had stressed that special attention would be given during the Decade to the issue of gender equality. A global campaign, using videos, pamphlets and workshops was to be launched in Beijing to promote awareness of the Convention and of CEDAW. The Scandinavia Governments had already earmarked funds for that purpose. In addition, a book on CEDAW and on the Convention and its legal impact had been published in Tokyo by the Japanese Association of International Women's Rights. The Committee had a leading role to play in making women around the world aware of their rights and of the instruments that existed for their protection.

13. Ms. CARTWRIGHT and Ms. SINEGIORGIS noting that the workload borne by the Chairperson would continue to increase because of efforts to mainstream women's issues in the general human rights work of the United Nations, wondered whether the Chairperson received sufficient clerical and financial support in her work and travel.

14. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE said that there were two ways of interpreting the mandate of a human rights treaty body such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. A narrow interpretation would mean that the Committee's work would be restricted to the consideration and follow-up of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention. A broader interpretation would enrich the work of the Committee, connecting it with the work of other bodies, and enabling it to broaden and strengthen the application of the Convention. She hoped that the secretariat would provide some information regarding budgetary limitations arising out of decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly.

15. The CHAIRPERSON said she hoped to clarify the question of whether the Secretariat of the United Nations could be expected to provide her with any help during the year, adding that there had been some difficulty with the financing of her participation on behalf of the Committee in certain events.

16. Ms. SHALEV expressed shock at the Chairperson's statement and noted that the Committee needed more information from the Secretariat concerning the way other human rights bodies were funded and regarding the activities undertaken by their chairpersons.

17. Ms. SINEGIORGIS noted that the services provided to the Committee by the Secretariat were frequently substandard; that in itself, could be taken as a reflection of the low status accorded to women. In order to give the issue the importance it deserved, she requested that the Secretariat submit a report to the Committee.

18. Ms. BERNARD said that it would be illuminating to find out about the experiences of chairpersons of other human rights bodies outside their committees.

19. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) said that the facilities and staff that were made available to the Committee were determined by its mandate, as outlined in article 21 of the Convention. While acknowledging that the Committee was indeed disadvantaged in terms of its short meeting time, he pointed out that, in accordance with article 17 of the Convention, Committee members received emoluments that were determined and approved by the General Assembly. As was the case with chairpersons of other human rights bodies, the Chairperson received a slightly higher amount to enable her to carry out her additional functions. The secretariat servicing CEDAW was no larger nor smaller than the secretariats servicing other human rights bodies, and its role was identical, namely to provide information, facilitate the exchange of information and prepare reports. On the subject of travel, practice with regard to CEDAW was no different from the practice applied to similar treaty bodies. The General Assembly provided a travel and daily subsistence allowance on the basis of the mandate as defined by the relevant instrument. Money for travel by chairpersons to various conferences in the execution of their mandates was appropriated on the basis of specific legislative requests. However, the Secretariat could only ask for the resources that had been recommended, and thus the system of requests was not very flexible. In practice, the Secretariat funded that kind of activity using savings that had been made elsewhere.

20. He offered to speak on the topic of finances in more detail at the working group, but warned that his answers would not be substantially different. With regard to the servicing provided to the Chairperson, the Secretariat was happy to do whatever clerical and secretarial work it could from New York.

21. Ms. TALLAWY said that when Committee members asked for the Secretariat's help they did not expect to have articles of the Convention quoted at them. Everybody knew there was a de jure and a de facto situation. The Convention provided a purely legal basis and a broad outline. The situation had changed over the years and the Committee's workload had increased substantially. Women's issues had assumed a far higher profile in recent years and, following various international conferences on women's matters, there had been a widespread change in attitude. That change should be reflected in the treatment accorded to the Committee. Every year the Secretariat should assess what the Chairperson's obligations were in light of the annual programme of work and submit a request for the necessary funds. For the Chairperson and members of the Committee travel was not simply a matter of choice, but an obligation.

22. She stressed the need for flexibility. Under the current system, attendance at a conference by the chairperson of a human rights body was conditional on the decision of the Secretariat depending on the resources available. She suggested that the whole issue of expenses should be referred to the General Assembly.

23. Ms. AOUIJ pointed out that women's rights were an integral part of human rights; since the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had called for

strengthening coordination and cooperation between human rights bodies, it was inevitable that CEDAW's mandate would expand. At a recent meeting of the Third Committee, the High Commissioner for Human Rights had reaffirmed the importance of all the human rights bodies, including CEDAW, and had promised to strengthen them within the United Nations system itself. That promise represented an undertaking by all States to strengthen the Committee's work. Accordingly the Committee should seek to take advantage of that spirit of goodwill in order to resolve its financial difficulties.

24. She concluded by noting that the Secretariat did not provide documents in the working languages of some of the members of the Committee, which complicated their work still further.

25. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE suggested that the Committee should ask the Division for the Advancement of Women to submit a request for more resources to the Commission on the Status of Women, citing the increase in the Committee's workload.

26. Ms. ESTRADA CASTILLO pointed out that, according to rule 3, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure, the Committee could meet at other places than those specified in the rules of procedure, and that, under article 17 of the Convention the Secretary-General was required to provide the Committee with the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of its functions. She agreed that any request for additional financial resources should be made through the Division for the Advancement of Women.

STATEMENT BY THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

27. Ms. COOMARASWAMY (Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women) said that in the discharge of her mandate, she had already undertaken field missions to each of the five major geopolitical regions of the world, and had also requested from Governments information on violence in the family and community and violence by the State, specifically with regard to the observance of international standards, national legislative practices, relevant court cases, training programmes for the police and judiciary and special programmes for women victims of violence, including the provision of shelters and community support systems. Some 29 States had thus far replied, as had a large number of non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies had also responded.

28. The framework for her discussions would remain the international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. She had submitted a preliminary report to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration at its fifty-first session.

29. With regard to her cooperation with the Committee, it would be useful if the data on violence against women contained in country reports could be brought to her attention. A mechanism should be set up within the Division for the Advancement of Women to forward such data to her as part of the Division's normal processing of country reports and other documents. She would also

welcome advance notice of country reports to be submitted to the Committee so that she could encourage the Governments concerned to include information on violence against women.

30. The CHAIRPERSON welcomed the Special Rapporteur's proposals for cooperation with the Committee which would prove to be an objective source of information.

31. Ms. TALLAWY drew attention to the recent resurgence of violence against women in times of armed conflict and civil strife, noting that the events in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a particularly chilling example of women being used as instruments of war. In the discharge of her mandate, the Special Rapporteur should also refer to the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflicts.

32. Another cause of concern was the growing phenomenon of the forced prostitution of women by organized criminal gangs, especially in the Far East. The Special Rapporteur should also turn her attention to that new development.

33. Ms. AOUIJ said that, in some Muslim countries, custom dictated that violence against women within families should remain a taboo subject. It was time to lift the veil of secrecy and expose that practice. It would also be helpful if the Special Rapporteur reported to the Committee as well as to the Commission on Human Rights.

34. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA DEL REAL, after expressing confidence that the Special Rapporteur would have the full support of the Committee as well as from members in their individual capacities, pointed out that the Special Rapporteur, like the Committee, faced the problem of inadequate budgetary resources for the discharge of her mandate. In fact, her support services consisted of a single person in Geneva.

35. Ms. COOMARASWAMY (Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women) thanked the Committee for the solidarity it had expressed and pledged to work closely with its members, noting that a mechanism must be set up in the Division for the Advancement of Women to facilitate the desired cooperation.

36. With regard to the budget, she said that she did receive an allocation from the Economic and Social Council to carry out her work, including field trips, although the appropriation was not entirely adequate.

37. Ms. TALLAWY pointed out that any request for additional resources for the Committee should also cover the work of the Special Rapporteur. It was frustrating that a Committee whose task it was to combat discrimination against women was itself the object of discrimination in so far as the allocation of resources was concerned. That situation was unacceptable and should be brought to the attention of both the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Secretary-General of the Organization.

38. Ms. ABAKA said that the Committee must take advantage of the favourable climate that existed prior to the World Conference to find an effective solution to the problem of resources. A similar opportunity might never present itself again.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.